

4-15-99

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, rm 1061
Rockville, Md. 20852

8489 '99 APR 20 AIO:10

Subj: Irradiation labeling
Docket No. 98N-1038

I am requesting that any foods, or any foods containing ingredients, that have been treated by irradiation, should be labeled with a written statement on the principal package display panel indicating such treatment. This statement should be prominent, easy to read and accompanied by the international "radura" symbol. The use of such deceptive terms such as "cold pasteurization" should be prohibited. Irradiation has a "material" impact on the texture and quality of food and I have the right to know about it before I purchase the item.

The reason the FDA is having to deal with this controversial issue is because the USDA has done such a poor job in regulating the safety of our food supply. As a result the credibility of the USDA is at an all time low. If the FDA were to go along with demands for deceptively promoting irradiation as a way of glossing over problems with our food supply, then your credibility will be damaged as well. The FDA's credibility is it's greatest asset and shouldn't be squandered in order to compensate for deficiencies in practices of the meat industry.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



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